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intelligent growers. STEVENS has rendered a distinct service to phytopathology by summarizing in a compact, neatly bound volume such a vast body of knowledge in an increasingly important field of applied botany.—E. C. STAKMAN.

### A textbook of botany

Under the title *General Botany*, DENSMORE<sup>2</sup> has added to the already numerous textbooks of elementary botany whose scope and content are suitable for use in the junior college or normal school. The headings of the first two and of the last chapter in the book, The relations of plants to the environment, The form and adjustments of the plant body to the environment, and Plant associations, show that ecology has been given due emphasis. The intervening chapters are devoted to plant anatomy, physiology, and morphology in a way that seems to fit the title of the book. There is even an attempt at the beginnings of classification, with the consideration of representative species and families from the spring flora. In a word, the material is sufficiently comprehensive that in the hands of a good teacher it will furnish the basis of a good general introductory course in the subject.

There is evidence in the volume that it comes as a result of a wide experience in the laboratory and in the field. The illustrations are numerous, many are original, and several, such as those of diagrammatic life histories, are of more than usual merit. The addition of a glossary would have supplemented the usefulness of the volume.—GEO. D. FULLER

### West African forests

A volume entitled "West African forests and forestry," by UNWIN,<sup>3</sup> late conservator of forests, Nigeria, is principally concerned with the economics of the forests of the west coast of Africa from the Senegal to the Congo River. It includes the regulations restricting the cutting of timber, the efforts at reforestation, notes on the most valuable timber trees, and summaries of forest exports. There are also chapters on The oil bean seeds and nuts of the forest; The oil palm and palm kernel industry; The forest in relation to agriculture; and A bibliography of West African forests. Considerable space is also devoted to the native names for the various trees.

The abundance and excellence of the photographs, together with the notes on the general forest conditions, furnish the ecologist and geographer with considerable data regarding the forest formation in a relatively unknown region. The index seems to be adequate and able to add to the usefulness of the volume, but the bibliography leaves much to be desired in the way of accuracy and completeness of citations.—GEO. D. FULLER.

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<sup>2</sup> DENSMORE, H. D., *General botany*. 12mo. pp. xii+459. *figs.* 289. Ginn and Co., Boston. 1920. \$2.96.

<sup>3</sup> UNWIN, A. H., *West African forests and forestry*. 8mo. pp. 527. *figs.* 110. London: T. Fisher Unwin Ltd. 1920.